REMARKSHIPS BY

But the gentleman says that some of this cotton is placed at fifty cents per pound. Well, sir, he knows, as everybody knows, that the price of cotton in 1812, and in 1813, here no proportion to the price the same article has borne since the war closed. The war of 1812 occasioned a great rise in the price of cotton, and I am informed that ordinary cotton then brought from twenty-five to fifty cents. But, when we consider the different classes of cotton, when we speak of that description of cotton which can only be produced upon the islands along the shores of South Carolina and Georgia, and upon the main land in Florida—the Sea Island cotton—you have, as the gentleman from South Carolina himself must admit, a sufficient explanation of the prices indicated in the paper he has read. Sea Island cotton always brings three or four times as much as the ordinary classes, so that, computing the ordinary classes of cotton at any rate then borne, the class raised mostly in East Florida would bring certainly not less than lifty cents. Hence, neither the fact of the price per pound, nor the aggregate amount of the claim, can furnish any evidence that the claim itself was not to the full extent allowed a just one.

But there are other facts going to show that this charge

But there are other facts going to show that this charge of fifty cents per pound was not too much. The Secretary of the Treasury finally adjudicated upon the claims, and he must have been aware that the price charged was about the market price of that day. Sir, can any gentleman in this hall presume for a moment that a judge of Florida would have permitted, and that the Secretary of the Treasury would have permitted, a claim to be paid the mere statement of which was enough to shock the moral sensibilities of an honest man, as it has seemed to shock those of my friend from South Carolina? I think it is a conclusion which no gentleman who has respect for high officers of the government could possibly arrive at.

I think the explanation I have given, so far as the crops are concerned, is sufficient. And in reference to the allowance for crops which the party was prevented from ma-

are concerned, a sunceent. And in reference to the allow-ance for crops which the party was prevented from ma-king, and which is beld up before the House as a great bug-bear, there is, in the facts, a conclusive demonstration that this portion of the claim was properly allowed at the Treasury Department. Sir, the army in 1812 and in 1813 went into Florida, not making its march across the line went into Florida, not making its march across the line and returning, not confining its stay to a week and then going back, not confining its injuries to one day, or one wonth, or one year, but extending through those seasons of the years 1812 and 1813 when the planter should be most active to save, and also most active in his labor to produce. I ask you, if, if what has been said by the gentleman from Tennessee is not, in reference to this particular point, a sufficient answer to the objection made by my friend from South Carolina. If these claimants, having their plantations ready to receive the seeds which were to bring forth the products by which their fortunes were to be made, or the products upon which they were to live, were prevented from sowing those seeds and tilling their soil by the operations of the United States army, improperly there—and the government of the United States army, improperly there—and the government of the United States are conjusted in the supervisor of the united States are to conjust the supervisor of the United States in the supervisor of the United States in the united States is bound to pay the entire much obligation on the part of the United States are to conjust the supervisor of the united States in the list of the treaty of 1819, with the subsequent of the United States in the list of the treaty of 1819, with the subsequent action, admitted that it was improporely there—and the government of the United States in the list of the united States in the list of the subsequent of the United States in the list of the united States in the united

But for what has been said by my friend from South
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carolina [Mr. Oza., I aloued laws constenced myself to
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declaracy Committee [Mr. Nax.Nov. of Tennesses] is a
Mr. MAXWELL. As to the transactions revently
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Mr. MAXWELL as to the transactions
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Congress stands both a posses stands of the stands of the posses of the

decision of the Secretary of the Treasury—for that has been one of the things discussed here—than into these mere collateral questions? Sir, this is an appeal from all parties who have had any connexion with it to the Congress of the United States, whose duty it is to do justice and right to its citizens and to all the world. And what I have to say further is, that when the Congress or the government of the United States refuses to recognise this as a principle on which it will indemnify or satisfy the claims of foreign citizens when urged by foreign governments, then the time has arrived when it must retrace its steps, and no more demand from any foreign government satisfaction to the extent it has always heretofore demanded it. This is not a mere question affecting these claims. It is a question of high public policy, a question affecting our international relations, and affecting vitally the rights and interests of our citizens everywhere.

Mr. STANTON, (interrupting.) Will the gentleman

interests of our citizens everywhere.

Mr. STANTON, (interrupting.) Will the gentleman from Florida allow me to state, in connexion with this portion of his remarks, that I have here copies of two letters, addressed by Mr. Calderon de la Barca, late Spanish minister to this country, to the government of the United States, as to some of these claims held by persons residing in the island of Cuba, merely to show that this is a question of treaty obligations, and one to be determined by the principles of public law. One of these letters reads as follows:

by the memorialists.

Washingtone, as the gentleman from South Carolina calls him, would not have suffered such a claim to pass his scratiny but for the fact that
he was satisfied that the position of the army towards
those persons who were prevented from raising their crops
was such as to bring the same liability on the government as if growing crops had actually been destroyed.

Mr. ORR. I do not like to interrupt my friend from
plorida, but I would like to ask him how it was possible
for the Secretary of the Treasury to satisfy himself so thoroughly as to reject claims which were made out in Florida
by a partic testing, without anybody to cross-examine
the witnesses or to reduce the amount of the claims?

Mr. KERR. I am informed by a gentleman who was
chief clers of the Treasury begratement at the time when
these claims were scrutinized, that the Secretary of the
freeding the same limit the other house, (Mr. Perkins, of Louisiana.) The prominent featwas saying.

These claims are not confined to citareas of Horda, for some of the Spanish subjects who sub

dorses the statement, and whether he knows, of his own value of the property at the time it was destroyed, but pay-

Mr. MORTON submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate the result of the late survey in Florida, made under an appropriation provided in the act of Congress approved August 3, 1852, or so much thereof as relates to the line examined between Cedar Key and Amelia island: agreed to.

Mr. BELL submitted two resolutions, directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of increasing the salaries of the local inspectors of steamboats at Wheeling and Nashville, and the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the Secretary of the Navy, after giving due public notice, to contract for a period of five years with the lowest bidder for a

retary of the Navy, after giving due public notice, to contract for a period of five years with the lowest bidder for a sufficient supply of water-rotted hemp at the same price, and raising the test to 4,400 lbs. upon a rope one and three-quarter inches in circumference: agreed to.

Mr. CLAYTON submitted a resolution requesting the President of the United States, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate copies of all documents on record or on file in regard to the settlement of the controversy in relation to the Lobos islands, and without which, it is stated by the Secretary of State, the subject cannot be properly understood: agreed to.

Mr. RUSK submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of State and Postmaster General, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate any correspondence which has taken place on the part of the United States with the British government on the subject of the existing postal treaty between the two governments, in addition to that contained in Senate executive document No. 32 of the 32d Congress, 2d session, as communicated to the Senate by the President of the United States under date of 3d February, 1853: agreed to.

JOINT RESOLUTION PASSED.

JOINT RESOLUTION PASSED.

Mr. WALKER asked and obtained leave to introduce a air. WALKER asked and obtained leave to introduce a joint resolution explanatory of an act passed August 3, 1854; which was read three times by unanimous consent, and passed. It has reference to the amount of lands in-tended by that act to be given to the State of Wisconsin for the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SYSTEM.

On motion by Mr. MASON, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the House of Representatives to remodel the diplomatic and consular system of the United States; which was read. It is a very long bill,

United States; which was read. It is a very long bill, containing twenty-seven sections.

Mr. MASON proceeded to explain the bill, and showed the necessity for its passage. Although it might not in all respects conform to the views of all the members of the Senate, yet he thought it would be well to pass the bill just as it is, and make such modifications hereafter as may be found necessary, rather than jeopard it by sending it back to the House of Representatives with amendments. He thought the country was under great obligations to the very able gentleman who prepared the bill in the other house, (Mr. Perkiss, of Louisiana.) The prominent features of the bill are these. It abolishes the offices of charge d'affaires and uninister resident, and all those functionaries.

consideration of the post-office-appropriation bill; but everal senators desired to call up other measures, he w trew his motion, and gave notice that he should call hat bill on Monday next.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill from the House of Representatives making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail, by ocean steamers and otherwise, during the year ending the 30th of June, 1856, reported it with amend-

ents.
Mr. CLAYTON, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the joint resolution authoris-tions to whom was referred the joint resolution authoris-ing the Secretary of the Treasury to settle the claim of Al-fred G. Benson on the principles of equity and justice, reported it without amendment. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

After a short debate on the order of business, the Senate proceeded, on the motion of Mr. Dawson, to the considera-tion of the bills on the calendar in relation to the Distric-Columbia.

The bill from the House of Representatives grantin

The bill from the House of Representatives granting certain additional powers to the corporation of Washington was considered and amended so as to include Georgetown; after which, it was read a third time and passed.

The bill from the House of Representatives authorizing the corporate authorities of Georgetown to impose additional taxes, and for other purposes, was then taken up. Messrs. RUSK, DAWSON, BROWN, WELLS, and others, discussed the bill at some length. Mr. RUSK moved to lay it on the table; which was not agreed to—yeas 16, nays 17—as follows:

17—as follows:
YEAS—Messrs. Badger, Brainerd, Brodhead, Brown, Chase, Fessenden, Fitzpatrick, Gwin, Hunter, Rusk, Shields, Stuart, Sumner, Wade, Wells, and Wilson—16.
NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Benjamin, Bright, Cooper, Dawson, Geyer, Gillette, Jones of Iowa, Mason, Morton, Pettit, Seward, Toombs, Toucey, Walker, Weller, and Wright—17. The bill having been amended, was read a third time and passed—yeas 20, nays 13—as follows:

YEAS—Messra, Benjamin, Bright, Butler, Cooper, Dawson, Douglas, James, Johnson, Mallory, Mason, Morton, Sebastian, Seward, Slidell, Stuart, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, Walker, Weller, and Wright—20. NAYS—Messra. Badger, Bayard, Brainerd, Brodhead, Brown, Chase, Fessenden, Rusk, Shields, Toombs, Wade, Wells, and Wilson—13.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

On motion by Mr. STUART, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the internal-improvement bills on the calendar; and the following bills were severally considered and passed.

Bill making appropriations for the improvement of cer-

Bill making appropriations for the improvement of certain harbors on the northern lakes.

Bill for continuing the improvement of the barbor at Dubuque, on the Mississippi river, in the State of Iowa.

Bill to establish a collection district at Cape Perpetua and Port Orford, in the Territory of Oregon, and to fix the salaries of the officers of customs therein.

Bill to continue the removal of the rocks at Hell Gate and Diamond reef, New York harbor.

Bill for the improvement of the Arkansas river.

Bill making an appropriation to continue the improvement of the navigation of the Tennessee river.

Bill for continuing certain public works in the State of Massachusetts.

assachusetts.

Bill to continue the improvement of the Hudson river, Bill making an appropriation for refunding to the citi-zens of Wilmington certain moneys advanced by them and expended by the agent of the United States in the improve-ment of the Cape Fear river, North Carolina.

Bill for continuing the improvement of the harbor of

Newcastle.

Bill for the construction of a harbor on the east side of

Bill for continuing the improvement of Mobile bay.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the bill for com-The Senate then proceeded to consider the bill for completing the fortifications at Fort Point and Alcatras island, in the harbor of San Francisco, California,

Mr. BAYARD had no objection to the bill, but thought other fortifications equally important, and moved to amend it by inserting an appropriation of \$200,000 for continuing the fortification on Pea Patch island.

Mr. GWIN, rather than have the bill encumbered with amendments, moved its reference to the Committee on Military Affairs; which was agreed to.

PASSENGER VESSELS, ETC.

The bill from the House of Representatives to regulate

the carriage of passengers in steamships and other vessels was read twice, and its further consideration was postponed until Monday next.

On motion by Mr. SLIDELL, the bill from the House of Representatives making an appropriation for military de-fences at Proctor's Landing, in Louisiana, was taken up

and passed.

Mr. SEWARD asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to prevent mistrials in the district and circuit courts of the United States in certain cases; which was read three times and passed.

JUDICIARY SYSTEM OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. On motion by Mr. TOOMBS, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the House of Representatives to reorganize the courts of the District of Columbia, and to reform and improve the laws thereof, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with sundry

reported from the Committee on the state of the amendments amendments. Mr. PETTIT boped the amendments would not be agreed to. He thought it important that the bill should pass just as it came from the House.

Mr. GEYER moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill until Monday; which was not agreed to—yeas

8, nays 20. Mr. BUTLER thought that the proposition to abolish Mr. BUTLER thought that the proposition to account
the district judges was an invasion of the constitutional
teaure by which they hold their offices. It is not because
they have not discharged their duties properly, but because some of them are old and unable to preside, that it is ow proposed to turn them out of office.

Mr. CLAYTON hoped that the bill would be defeated

e great question of an independent judiciary was involved in it.

After a few remarks by Mr. TOUCEY, without taking the question on the amendments,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Mr. GIDDINGS, of Ohio, said that he arose to a question of privilege. Under the federal constitution each member of the House is considered responsible for its action, unless his vote or objections are duly entered upon the journal, or in the current reports of its proceedings against it. Important bills and measures, he said, had passed through this body by resorting to expedients until recently unknown to American legislation, and by which legislation is consummated without consideration and without discussion. On yesterday the bill for carrying into effect the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, concluded February 8th. 1853, on the subject of claims, and which appropriate \$2.70,000 to enable the Executive of this government to carry out the provisions of said bill, was passed through this body without this being permitted to a press his dissent and vote against the bill. He wished now to press his dissent and vote against the bill. He wished now to

eater his protest upon the journal against such proceedings.
Mr. CLINGMAN. I object, and demand the consideration of the regular order.
Mr. GIDDINGS. I am in the regular order.
The SPEAKER. Objection being made, the gentleman can only proceed by unanimous consent.
Mr. GIDDINGS. Am I not allowed to state my question of state by the second of the state of the second of

privilege?
The SPEAKER. The Chair does not understand that the gentleman has yet stated his question of privilege.

Mr. GIBDINGS stated his question of privilege to be, that his dissent from that bill had not been entered upon

The SPEAKER said that the journal was correctly made Mr. GIDDINGS said ves : but he had not been permit-

Mr. GIDDINGS said res; but he had not been permitted to make his views upon the subject known, and he wished, as a matter of privilege, to enter his protest against the manner of transacting business in the House hall, and have it go upon the journal of the House.

The SPEAKER. The Chair very respectfully decides that there is no rule of the House which authorizes protests to be entered upon the journal.

Mr. GIDDINGS said that he would very respectfully appear from the decidence of the Chair.

Mr. GIDDINGS said that he would very respectfully appeal from the decision of the Chair.

The SPEAKER, in stating the question, said that the gentleman complisins because he was not allowed to make a speech yesterday, and claims a right to place his speech upon the journal to-day in the shape of a protest. He did not know of any rule by which the authorizing of the spreading of such a document upon the journal could be made a question of privilege.

Mr. ORR moved to hay the question of appeal on the widows and orphan children of those who Ned in the service:

table.

Mr. GIDDINGS asked for the yeas and nays; which were ordered; and the question being then taken on the motion to lay on the table, it was agreed to—yeas 137, nays 46.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, asking that the appropriations therein asked for be made; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. ORDER OF BUSINESS. Mr. DISNEY stated that the Committee on Public Lands Ar. DISNEY stated that the Committee on Public Lands had matured a certain number of railroad bills, which they were very desirous to put upon their passage. He thought that they could be passed without debate, and it was no more than justice to the gentlemen interested in the bills that they should be allowed, at least, to vote upon them

one way or the other.

Mr. HAMILTON. These railroad bills are the very ones

which I want to have examined, and I therefore object, and call for the regular order of business. Mr. OLDS gave notice that he should report the usual post-route bill on Monday next, and move the previous

question to put it upon its passage.

The SPEAKER announced that the regular order of business was the consideration of pending amendments to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

and the continued of the consideration of passage.

The SPEAKER amounded that the regular order of business was the consideration of pending amendments to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

Civil ASD DPLONATIO BILL.

They accordingly resumed the consideration of that bill, and the first question was on concurring in the amendment appropriating S14000 to enable the President of the United States to provide hospital accommodations for sick and disabled American seame at or next the port of Ha. They accordingly resume an ator next the port of Ha. They are consideration the recurred on the amendment appropriating S14000 to enable the President of the United States to provide hospital accommodations for sick and disabled American seame at or next the port of Ha. They are stated that the state of the United States to provide hospital accommodations for sick and disabled American seame at or next the port of Ha. They are stated to the state of the United States to provide hospital accommodations for sick and disabled American seame at or next the port of Ha. They are stated to the state of the United States to provide hospital accommodations for sick and disabled American seame at or next the port of Ha. They are stated to the state of the United States to provide hospital section of the side state of the United States to provide hospital sections of the States of States and States

Zollicoffer—82.

Mr. HOUSTON moved to reconsider and lay the question of reconsideration on the table; which motion was agreed to.

On the question, Shall the bill be ordered to be en

grossed and read a third time, the year and nays were de-manded and ordered; and being then taken, it was agreed

Mr. EDGRPTON gave notice if that motion should be twiced down he would move to recommit the bill with in structions to remit duties on railroad iron, and to admit dyestaffs, dyewoods, and unmanufactured wool fee of duty.

Mr. MEACHAM moved to lay the bill on the table: rejected—yeas 62, nays 141.

The previous question was then ordered—yeas 116, nays 31.

The bill was then read a third time and passed—yeas 126, nays 77—as follows:

The previous question was then ordered—yeas 116, nays 31.

The bill was then read a third time and passed—yeas 126, nays 77—as follows:

YEAS—Mesers. Abecrombie, James C. Allen, Willia Allen, Appleton, Ashe, David J. Bailey, Rahks, Barksdale, Barry, Bell, Benton, Bliss, Boeock, Boyce, Breckinridge, Bridges, Brooks, Caske, Chamberian, Chastain, Chrisman, Churchwell, Clack, Clingan, Cobb, Craige, Gutting bar, Dunhao, Edgerton, Ethnon, Elizaro, Disney, Dowell, Done and Charles, Chambar, Carlot, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Charles, Chambar, Charles, Charle

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. DISNEY, from the Committee on Rublic Lands, to

amendments which will be submitted by the Committee of Ways and Means is \$14,669,000, it being \$521,000 less than the estimates sent in by the heads of departments for the naval service. He said that the committee did not think it proper to insert a provision in the hill providing for the mail-ateamer service, inasmuch as such provisions had been made in another bill.

Mr. MACDONALD submitted an amendment extending

Mr. MACDONALD submitted an amendment extending the provisions of the act of April 22, 1854, increasing the pay of the clerks employed in the Washington (D. C.) navy-yard, to the comployees of all other navy-yards of the United States.

Overruled by the Chairman, (Mr. Millson.)

Mr. STEATTON submitted an amendment providing that no liquor shall be furnished as a beverage overruled. Mr. STANTON, of Teanessee, moved to amend by adding a provision for the construction of sixteen frigates; which was overruled by the Chairman.

Mr. S. submitted an amendment providing for the purchase of hemp for the use of the navy within the limits of the United States, he considering that American hemp was auperfor and just as cheap as Russian hemp; which was also roted out of order by the Chairman.

On motion, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

Be it canceled by the Senate and House of Representations of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the officers of the army of the revolution, who were entitled to half-pay for his under the resolutions of Congress of the twenty-first of October, seventeen hundred and eighty, the seventeenth of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, the eighth of May, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, and the eighth of March, seventeen hundred and eighty-five, shall be entitled to receive the same, although such officer may have received, in lieu thereof, the commutation of full pay for five years, under the resolution of Congress of the twenty-second of March, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

the twenty-second of March, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted. That it shall be the duty of the proper accounting officer of the treasury, when applied to for that purpose by any one who by this act is estitled to receive, or his or her guardian, to ascertain what is due to such officer, from the time be became entitled to the said half-pay until his death, if that occurred before the third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-six; but if he died after that time, then up to the said third day of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-six.

Sec. 3. And be if further exacted. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, when the amount due to any officer has been ascertained, as aforesaid, to pay the same, as bereinafter directed, after deducting therefrom the amount received for commutation, under the resolution of the twenty-second of March, seventeen hundred and eighty-three.

parents.

SEC. 12. And be it further enacted. That this act shall continue and be of force for the term of ten vears and no longer and all claims not presented with the evidence for its algabication within that time shall be forever barred.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That the decision of the accounting officer shall be final and conclusive.

left New York a few months since for Constantinople, as an agent for the American Bible Society, has found his way to the seat of war, and has spent some days at the way to the seat of war, and has spent some days at the Mr. HOUSTON moved the previous question on the final passage of the bill.

Mr. EDGERTON gave notice if that motion should be voted down he would move to recommit the bill with instructions to remit duties on railroad iron, and to admit.

Way to the seat of war, and has spent some days at the camp before Sebastopol. He has written an interesting letter from that encomponent to the editors of the Observe, in which he thus speaks of a visit which he paid to Lord Raglan:

"I then proceeded to headquarters, and called upon

The New was Minister.—A cotomporary, in giving sketch of the new English ministry, thus speaks of the Sc retury at War:

Mr. DISNEY, from the Committee on Rublic Lands, to whom was referred the Senate bill granting to the State of Ohio the unappropriated and unsold lands in said State, reported back the same with an amendment, in the nature of a substitute therefor, confirming the selections of lands by the State of Ohio for canal purposes made under former acts. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. DISNEY, from the same committee, reported back House bill (No. 265) granting the right of way to the Wyandotte and Pawnee Railroad Company through the public lands of the Territory of Kansas.

Mr. McDOUGALL, moved to amend the bill by extending the provisions of the bill to all railroad companies through the Territories of the United States and the State of Californis.

A motion was made to commit the bill to the Committee. intrusted must be one of those pleasant jokes will Palmerston, even at the wost serious moment, a startling the world. One of the most incapable of